

COMPUTER NETWORK COMMUNICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method and system for using standard global computer network communication protocol to implement server driven “push” technology. An initial communication connection is established between a server and a client. The connection is maintained by predefined periodic signals which are non-substantive messages from the server to the client. Upon existence of a substantive message at the server, the server transmits an appropriate predefined signal to the client. The client thereafter receives the substantive message. In one application, the server exchanges substantive messages between two clients and as such provides instant messaging.